

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 12845 151111Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----103728 151311Z /47

R 151103Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9103

S E C R E T CAIRO 12845

EXDIS

DEPT PASS SECDEF

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP
SUBJECT: GAMASY'S FEELINGS ON UPCOMING
- U.S. VISIT

REF: (A) STATE 105180, (B) CAIRO 12621

1. DURING MY MEETING WITH GAMASY, MAY 13, THE SUBJECT OF HIS UPCOMING VISIT TO THE U.S. AROSE. I HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT GAMASY IS SOMEWHAT TEPID ON THE VISIT. HE ASKED ME IF I REALLY THOUGHT ANYTHING USEFUL WILL COME OUT OF IT. TOLD HIM THAT, IN MY JUDGMENT, HIS VISIT WILL HAVE CONSIDERABLE SYMBOLIC SIGNIFICANCE. IT WILL BE ONE OTHER STEP IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF OVER-ALL U.S./EGYPTIAN RELATIONS. IT SHOULD HELP ACCUSTOM THE CONGRESS AND AMERICAN PUBLIC THAT AN EGYPTIAN MINISTER OF WAR, REPRESENTING A COUNTRY WITH WHICH WE HAVE CLOSE RELATIONS, CAN VISIT THE U.S. AS A GUEST OF OUR SECRETARY OF DEFENSE. IT WILL CLEARLY NOT BE POSSIBLE TO WORK OUT ANY ARMS DEALS, BUT THE VISIT WILL GIVE HIM (IF HE WISHED TO TAKE IT) THE OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE HIS INTEREST IN APC'S, ANTI-TERRORIST TRAINING, SENSORS, ETC., WITH SECRETARY BROWN AND SENIOR OSD OFFICIALS. THIS WILL ENABLE BOTH SIDES TO LOOK DOWN THE ROAD A BIT

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MORE AND CONSIDER WHAT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE IN THE FUTURE. FOR ALL THESE REASONS, I URGED THAT HE GO THROUGH WITH THE TRIP.

2. GAMASY AGREED THAT THE TRIP WILL BE PRIMARILY OF POLITICAL RATHER THAN MILITARY IMPORTANCE. HE NOTED THAT, ACCORDING TO EGYPTIAN RECORDS, NO EGYPTIAN MINISTER OF WAR

HAS OFFICIALLY VISITED THE U.S. FOR AT LEAST THIRTY-FIVE YEARS. HE EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN THAT PRO-ISRAELI ELEMENTS MIGHT SEEK OCCASION TO PROVOKE HIM IN ORDER TO CAUSE INCIDENTS. IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE THIS POSSIBILITY, HE THOUGHT IT BEST TO KEEP HIS PUBLIC APPEARANCES TO THE MINIMUM NECESSARY AND SAID HE HAD SO INFORMED AMBASSADOR GHORBAL. HE ALSO DID NOT WISH TO PROJECT AN IMAGE OF "FOOLING AROUND" (A FAVORITE PHRASE OF HIS) AND THEREFORE HAS IN MIND REMAINING FOR THE MINIMUM PERIOD POSSIBLE, HOPEFULLY NO MORE THAN SEVEN DAYS ALTOGETHER, INCLUDING ONE DAY TRIPS EACH WAY. I TOLD HIM THAT HE COULD BE SURE. OSD IS AWARE OF SENSITIVITY OF HIS VISIT AND WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO AVOID SITUATIONS WHICH COULD EMBARRASS HIM. AT SAME TIME, HE SHOULD BE ON HIS GUARD AGAINST POTENTIAL PROVOCATIONS. THE LENGTH OF TIME OF HIS VISIT DEPENDED UPON HIM AND I AGAIN URGED THAT IF HE HAS ANY SPECIFIC WISHES, HE SHOULD INDICATE THEM. I WAS SURE THAT SECRETARY BROWN WOULD WANT TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ACCOMMODATE HIS WISHES.

3. GAMASY SAID HE HAD RECEIVED A TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FROM EGYPTIAN MILITARY ATTACHE IN WASHINGTON. LATTER IS ARRIVING LATER THIS WEEK TO DISCUSS IT WITH HIM. GAMASY'S PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF SCHEDULE SUGGESTED IT IS ALL RIGHT, ALTHOUGH HE SEEMED TEPID ON A VISIT TO THE ARMOR SCHOOL. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE NOTED THAT HE WILL
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NOT BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN VISITING MILITARY INSTALLATIONS DEDICATED TO THE USE OF EQUIPMENT WHICH GOE IS NOT IN ANY CASE LIKELY TO BE ABLE TO GET FROM THE U.S. HE UNDERTOOK TO TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT DRAFT SCHEDULE AND, AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE EGYPTIAN MILITARY ATTACHE, PROVIDE ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR CHANGES THAT HE MAY HAVE. EILTS

NOTE BY OC/T: CAIRO 12845 NOT PASSED SECDEF.

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 may 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CAIRO12845
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780205-0178
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780559/aaaabyht.tel
Line Count: 103
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 748f1c9f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 STATE 105180, 78 CAIRO 12621
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2692626
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GAMASY'S FEELINGS ON UPCOMING - U.S. VISIT
TAGS: OVIP, PEPR, EG, US, (GAMASY, MOHAMED ABDEL GHANI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/748f1c9f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014